



State of Washington

Medical Quality Assurance Commission

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Medical Commission

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Promoting patient safety and enhancing the integrity of the profession through licensing, discipline, rule-making, and education.

Overview

- The Commission is currently participating in a 5-year pilot project to measure performance and efficiency
- 21 members: 13 MDs, 2 PAs, 6 public members
- 39.7 staff, \$14M biannual budget
- Commission licenses 28,583 physicians and physician assistants

Significant Accomplishments during Pilot Project

- Adopted chronic noncancer pain management rules
- Established rule regulating office-based surgery
- Established rule regulating non-surgical medical cosmetic procedures
- Amended rule on retired-active physicians
- 89% of investigations completed on time in 2011
- Reduced investigative aged-case backlog by 75%
- Reduced legal aged-case backlog by 50%
- Followed legislatively-mandated disciplinary sanction rules in 99% of disciplinary orders
- Created disciplinary orders that are more clear, consistent and transparent

Actions in Fiscal 2011

- Issued 2540 new licenses
- Received 1164 complaints/reports
- Investigated 731 complaints/reports
- Issued 84 disciplinary orders
- Summarily suspended or restricted 13 licenses
- Actively monitoring 171 practitioners
- 47 practitioners successfully completed compliance programs

Current Issues

- Development of pain management rules education package
- Implementing wrong site surgery project
- Working with State Hospital Association to reduce medical errors
- Developing process to acquire demographic data for physicians and physician assistants licensed in Washington state
- Exploring requirements to ensure continuing competency
- Development of reconsideration procedures to comply with SHB1493
- Increasing educational outreach to profession and public
- Studying disciplinary recidivism among practitioners

